

President's Corner

Working Landscape Revisited

by Wayne Bell

The September/October 2008 President's Corner introduced the concept of the "working landscape" as an environmental, economic, and cultural resource to be passed to each succeeding generation as an appreciated asset. In early January 2009 I represented MOS in three venues where I found the concept of the working landscape helpful in creating a unified perspective across very different circumstances.

These occasions, on three days in a row, were: (1) Panel on "Changing Patterns, Birding on the Eastern Shore" organized by the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, where I joined seasoned birders and long-time residents Jan Reese and "Mutt" Meritt as a co-panelist; (2) Site visit to Turner's Creek State Park and Sassafras Wildlife Management Area in northern Kent County, organized by former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest to help develop a comprehensive management plan for the region; (3) Workshop on "Chesapeake Futures," a new interpretive program being launched by the Chesapeake Maritime Museum in St. Michaels.

My personal familiarity with the dynamics of Eastern Shore bird populations dates back to the mid-1980s at best, sufficient time to witness the decline of Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, and other

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Lights Out Baltimore!

An American Woodcock sat quiet and still in the middle of the sidewalk next to the Mechanic Theatre as workers began to arrive before 7:00 AM. At lunchtime, the bird was still there. This was Wendy Olsson's first encounter – but not the last – with a bird that had struck a building in downtown Baltimore. Wendy took the bird to Wildlife Rescue. After medication and convalescence, the bird was feisty and ready for release.

Sadly, this is not the case for most migrating birds that encounter man-made structures. Most die and get swept up and thrown in the trash, are eaten by predators, or go unnoticed. However, several cities – Chicago, Toronto, New York – and now Baltimore – have established programs to reduce bird collision hazards, rescue injured migratory birds, and collect data on bird collisions.

Modern glass architecture and lighting, while appealing to humans, can be deadly to birds. By night, bright urban lights can pull migrating birds off track, confusing them and causing them to flutter about the light until they drop from exhaustion or strike the structure. By night or day, birds

often fail to see transparent and reflective glass as a barrier to be avoided. When the glass reflects their natural habitat or appears as an unobstructed flyway, birds fly toward it, often with fatal consequences. According to bird collision researcher Dr. Daniel Klemm at Muhlenberg College, glass collisions are the single largest cause of mortality to songbirds.

After years of observing this phenomenon, Wendy organized other concerned birders to address the problem of bird collisions. Through the Baltimore Bird Club (BBC), Baltimore initiated a Lights Out! campaign. The goals of the campaign include:

- Collect data to understand the magnitude of the problem in Baltimore.
- Engage the city and building managers to take action to improve the situation. Our goal is to have buildings reduce their usage of nighttime light. This fits in with the city's Sustainability Plan goal to reduce energy consumption by 15% by 2015.

(Lights Out Baltimore! continues on page 3)

CONFERENCE 2009

May, migration, and merriment: The 62nd annual MOS Conference will unfold the weekend of May 15-17 in Frederick, headquartered at the Holiday Inn. Complementing scores of field trips will be a sparrow workshop by Jim Rising, U. of Toronto, and a keynote speech by Doug Tallamy, U of Delaware, along with the traditional favorites: silent auction, raffle, bird store, research poster session, wine and cheese social, and the annual business meeting. For more information, contact Janet Shields, conference coordinator and registrar, 301-733-7877 or janetbill@prodigy.net.

President's Corner (continued from page 1)

A double scoop of
congratulations
 is in order for
DIANE FORD
 of Montgomery County.
 Not only did Diane's
 drawing of a
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 adorn the conference
 registration brochure, but
 Diane's American Bittern has
 won the competition for the
 2009 conference pin.

The Maryland Yellowthroat
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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed or e-mailed to Lydia Schindler by March 20, 2009 for the May/June 2009 issue.

*Illustrations pages 1 and 8 ©M. Suzanne Probst.
 Photograph page 3 ©Keith Costley.
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 Photographs page 7 ©Bill Hubick.
 Photographs page 9 and 10 ©George Jett.*

grassland species. Data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) extend that window back to 1966 for breeding species. BBS data clearly show the significant decline of grassland birds but not of wetland birds (Great Blue Heron and Wood Duck have increased around 5 percent per year). However, the field experiences related by the co-panelists (1) showed that my perceptions of how well waterfowl populations are faring today is misleading; wintering ducks, geese, and swans were extremely abundant around the Chesapeake more than 30 years ago.

Changes in the abundance of bird species reflect in part changes in the regional working landscape itself: land use has become more intensive as grain has replaced pasture on productive farmland, and some farmland has been lost to development. The scale of land use changes on the Chesapeake watershed has consequences for the Bay itself, the most obvious being the loss of the formerly extensive sea grass beds that fed our wintering waterfowl. Given the modest success (some would argue overt failure) of the state-federal Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, one might well ask if the current landscape is being passed to the next generation as a burden rather than an asset.

Much as I want to see a healthier Bay, I worry that we are too concerned with perspectives that view people as polluters and intruders rather than as an integral part of the working landscape. Restoration of the Chesapeake system to some previous, even pristine, condition is a noble idea. But the Chesapeake Futures workshop (3) suggested that words like "restore" and "pristine" may give people an excuse to *dis*-engage, passing responsibility to environmental organizations and government, rather than understanding that individuals are part of a solution that will benefit not only the environment but also themselves aesthetically and economically. It is interesting to see how a museum famous for its historic displays of Chesapeake boat-building and fisheries is turning its attention to the ambiguities of the future. Workshop participants recommended display themes that would convey positive rather than negative messages, and they were especially interested in coupling these with opportunities for visitors to get outdoors and onto the working landscape of the Eastern Shore. Proposed activities included cycling, kayaking, and birding, all coupled with possible visits to historic villages and working farmland.

The Turner's Creek area (2) is something of a blank slate rich with opportunity. Gilchrest, an unabashed devotee of ecologist E.O. Wilson, encouraged us to embrace the concept of "consilience," a unity of knowledge that melds science and humanities and that could integrate the environmental assets of Sassafras WMA with the historic buildings and museum of the contiguous State Park. Far from creating a 1,000-acre display case, we were asked how the public might become actively engaged by an "outdoor library," a working landscape that would include continued agricultural use, passive recreational activity (hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, and, of course, birding), and opportunity to learn from the past. To be sure, the area is not a refuge for any rare MD species (the Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed 50 breeders in the two relevant blocks). Its working landscape, however, provides an important assemblage of grassland and scrub habitats for declining species such as Northern Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Yellow-breasted Chat. It is Gilchrest's dream that this site become a true and sustainable asset for generations to come.

A working landscape is not a museum piece but rather a dynamic system, an "outdoor library" where old volumes are constantly augmented by new acquisitions. When we set lands aside to preserve a forest, grassland, or wetland through long-term management, we must not merely put them away on the shelf but rather find ways of encouraging our continued engagement with them as functioning and dynamic systems. From my point of view, the one-time abundance of wintering waterfowl presented in (1) provides a historic lesson about how the Chesapeake working landscape has changed. We should learn from that history so that we might better sustain the working landscape we enjoy today. And we should take every opportunity to enter into that landscape so we can relate to it and endeavor to sustain it as an asset for our children to inherit.

In the words of one of the workshop (3) participants, "The Bay is a mirror that reflects our choices – the people we have been, the people we are, the people we will become, and the people we ought to be." This is an example of consilience between people and nature, and it can be applied to sustaining a landscape that works for both.

Lights Out Baltimore! (continued from page 1)



- Educate building managers and city officials about measures that can reduce strikes in the worst strike zones.
- More long-term, engage architects and other conservation and environmental organizations to help our effort. We will work with architects and environmentalists to have new buildings (especially “green” buildings) built with sensitivity to this issue. A building isn’t green if it kills birds.

During fall 2008 migration, volunteers from the BBC monitored downtown bird strikes. They spent their early mornings (5:30am-7:00am) every weekday for two and a half months (mid-August through October) surveying buildings in a 2-mile loop near the Inner Harbor. Over the course of these 10 weeks, they found 89 dead and 20 injured birds. Birds with mild injuries were given a bit of quiet time to recover from their concussions, then were released later in the morning at Patterson Park. Birds in need of additional medical care were taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. The rehabilitator, Kathy Woods of the Phoenix Wildlife Center, also trained our team how to handle injured birds.

Injured and dead species included:

- 1 Clapper Rail (only the sixth record in Baltimore)
- 27 warblers, including Ovenbird, Black-and-white, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Chestnut-sided
- 28 sparrows, including Song, Lincoln’s, Swamp, and White-throated

- 6 thrushes, including Wood, Hermit, and Swainson’s
- 47 other birds, including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Woodcock, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Cooper’s Hawk

This fall we drew upon the multiple talents of our volunteers to prepare for our outreach campaign. Marci Treece designed a Lights Out Baltimore! logo (above), and along with Wendy Olsson is developing an informational brochure. Keith Costley lent his time and talents putting together a *Lights Out Bird Guide*, which provides photos and ID tips for frequently found species. A web-site is in the beginning stage of development. Middleton Evans, Bill Hubick, Nico Sarbanes, and Mary Fran donated fabulous photos for our use. We are grateful for the work of American Bird Conservancy’s Karen Cotton and Daniel Lebbin, and Dave Curson from the MD/DC Audubon Society, in helping us move forward. And we thank the Maryland Conservation Council and Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church for inviting us to speak to them and donating to our cause.

We are now beginning our outreach to relevant parties to make

them aware of the problem and hopefully encourage them to take action. We have also notified local universities of our project; we have generated significant interest in using the topic and our program for biology students doing research projects. We have written to the University of Baltimore requesting a meeting to discuss ways of making their to-be-built new “green” multistory all-glass building in downtown Baltimore less of a hazard to birds. And beginning mid-March, we will start our early morning watch again for 10 weeks during Spring 2009 migration!

If you care to join us or want more information, contact us at rwolsson@verizon.net. We could especially use help in web site development and the Spring migration count. Take it from those of us who have been there, the Baltimore Harbor at sunrise is a beautiful and safe place to be!

Relevant web sites on bird collisions:

<http://www.flap.org/>
<http://www.birdsandbuildings.org/info.html>
<http://www.surfacecareusa.com/past-projects/morgan-mail-post-office.html>
<http://blog.audubon.org/cs/blogs/birdscapes/archive/2008/04/15/birdsafe-building-design.aspx>

—Joan Cwi

Which Common Yellowthroat do you prefer?



Photo: Keith Costley



Photo: Nico Sarbanes

MINUTES OF THE MOS BOARD MEETING

BLACK HILL RP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

President: Wayne Bell
Vice-President: Mark Johnson
Treasurer: Emmalyn Holdridge
Secretary: Janet Shields
Past President: Marcia Balestri

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Awards: John Malcolm
Communications:
 Janet Millenson
Conference: Janet Shields
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
EFM: Gayle Bach-Watson
Investments: Martha Waugh
Membership: Sarel Cousins
Records Committee: Phil Davis
Sanctuary: Brent Byers
Web Site Upgrade: Wayne Bell
World Series of Birding:
 Wayne Bell
Youth Programs: George Radcliffe

Allegany/Garrett: *not represented*
Anne Arundel: Linda Baker,
 Phil Davis, David Gillum
Baltimore: Brent Byers,
 Roberta Ross
Caroline: *not represented*
Carroll: Maureen Harvey
Cecil: *not represented*
Frederick: Gayle Bach-Watson, Kathy
 Calvert, Sarel Cousins
Harford: *not represented*
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts,
 Jane Coskren, Karen Darcy,
 Thomas Miller, Kate Tufts,
 Martha Waugh, Paul Zucker
Kent: *not represented*
Montgomery: Brad Beukema,
 Mike Bowen, John Malcolm,
 Don Messersmith,
 Janet Millenson, Jim Nelson
Patuxent: Fred Fallon
Talbot: George Radcliffe
Tri-County: *not represented*
Washington: *not represented*

President Wayne Bell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked Mike Bowen for leading a bird walk before the meeting. He also thanked the Montgomery Chapter for

hosting the meeting at such short notice, setting up the meeting space at Black Hill, and providing food.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with the following corrections. On Page 2 the Montgomery Chapter report should read that they are close to publishing the new **edition** of the Montgomery Site Guide. Under New Business, Financial Investment Strategy on Page 5, the next to last sentence should be changed to: After considerable discussion, this motion was withdrawn.

Treasurer's Report: Emmalyn Holdridge's Treasurer's Report was included in the Board meeting packet. There were no questions.

President's Remarks: Wayne Bell thanked Marcia Balestri, Past President, for her tireless leadership over the last two years. It was Wayne's pleasure to attend an August 20 rally at Arlington Echo for the No Child Left Inside Coalition (NCLI) of MD. The National Coalition, with 550 member organizations, is sponsoring NCLI legislation. The August rally was attended by more than 300 people representing 50 organizations, of which MOS is one. It was marvelous to see John Sarbanes, a junior Maryland congressman, who is shepherding the NCLI bill through Congress. Wayne handed out MOS information. A lot of people recognized both Wayne and MOS and, if this bill passes, they could be looking to us to work with them to help implement it. If this House bill is passed, and it should happen this month, it would be a great opportunity for us to help fund youth programs and enhance our YMOS program. This would be very rewarding for our young people. If we are going to save our land, we need to get our young people outside into it.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Montgomery: Jim Nelson is hoping the new edition of the Montgomery Site Guide will be ready in time to bring copies to the next Board meeting.

Talbot: Wayne Bell announced that the 1,000-acre Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary in Talbot County is being closed. There was to be a trust fund for MD/DC Audubon to manage it but that trust fund has been rescinded. There is a REMOTE possibility that the land will be sold FOR DEVELOPMENT. Presently the Talbot Bird Club and its guests may still bird there.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Atlas: Jane Coskren reported that the Atlas is in the writing stage. This always takes longer than expected but it is going along fine. The deadline for getting material to Johns Hopkins for printing has been extended from December to June 30. The data base will stay at Patuxent and is open for anyone who wants to look at it.

Awards: John Malcolm wants to remind the chapters and Board members to recognize their volunteers. To that end, John will prepare certificates and awards or help chapters in any way he can. He has many certificates, ideas, etc. to choose from. Please give him as much notice as possible. To recognize and encourage our MOS kids, John has developed patches that say "junior birder" and can be given along with a junior birder certificate. Contact John to see how he can help you.

Birding Trail: Mike Bowen reported the committee will be meeting on September 21. They plan to complete the site nomination form and send it out to the chapters.

Budget: Wayne Bell announced that Shiras Guion is stepping down as chair. Paul Zucker has agreed to become the new chair for at least one year. We all wish Shiras well.

Communications Coordinator: Janet Millenson said that everyone should have received a *Maryland Birdlife* and another one is in the works. Janet attended a meeting of the Records Committee, which is talking about digitizing a lot of the old material and publishing it. Janet also said that MOS has lots of logos in various forms and colors; she would like to have one official logo and is looking for advice from a graphic artist. If anyone knows of a graphic artist who might be willing to help, contact Janet. The issue is not what the logo is, but rather a matter of getting a standardized look.

Conference: Janet Shields announced that the next conference will be in Frederick at the FSK Conference Center of the Holiday Inn May 15-17, 2009. Kathy Calvert, Frederick, has graciously consented to handle the field trips. Maryanne Dolan will continue to run the Silent Auction and Raffle. Our keynote speaker will be Doug Tallamy, a University of Delaware professor, discussing biodiversity in suburbia. James Rising, University of Toronto, will be conducting a sparrow workshop and a field trip. Our 2010 conference will be held at Washington College June 11-13.

Conservation: Acting Chair Maureen Harvey reported the committee is renewing its Maryland Conservation Council membership. Starting next week the Maryland Department of Planning is going to hold meetings, called Smart Growth Forums, around the state. These are listening sessions, going beyond birds to talk about how communities are growing.

Maureen announced that Kurt Schwarz, Howard Bird Club member, has agreed to become Conservation Chair as a one-year trial.

Wayne Bell noted that other issues include deer management at Loch Raven Reservoir and the Bush administration's threat to the Endangered Species Act, in allowing the various agencies involved to police themselves.

EFM: Gayle Bach-Watson is looking for people willing to attend, with her or on their own, events that help raise funds for EFM and MOS. Last year

the number of events to which EFM was invited was down, with only 25 compared to 40 events the year before. Gayle was able to attend 18 of those events herself.

Investments: Martha Waugh handed out her investment report showing income and portfolio value for the last 5 years. Wayne Bell announced that Martha has stepped down as Investment chair and that this was her last meeting. Wayne presented Martha with a Valued Service Award in grateful recognition of her many years of hard work, devotion to the Society, and superlative performance as chair of the Investment Committee. Wayne is looking for someone with investment expertise to join the committee; please give him any suggestions of people who might be of interest.

Historian: In May Don Messersmith was invited to a VSO meeting to receive a pin recognizing 50 years of membership. This led Don to propose that MOS give a pin and free membership (no dues) to anyone who has been a member of MOS for 50 years. This was approved by the Board.

Membership: Sarel Cousins is continuing to send out MOS materials to new members. Wayne Bell noted that our current membership stands at 1,301.

Sanctuary: Brent Byers reported that a workday took place at Carey Run in June. Fourteen scouts volunteered to help with invasive species removal. A second spraying for Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose was done. The committee received two quotes for some gutter work and other repairs on the house; the estimates were around \$5,000. One of the contractors should make the repairs this year.

Brent said Irish Grove workdays have been scheduled for November 1 and 2. The spraying for phragmites continued; it will probably cost \$1,000-\$1,500. This project has been on-going for several years and is proving effective.

Brent announced the Piscataway property will soon belong to MOS. We've signed the deeds and submitted funds for settlement; the transfer of the property is almost complete.

Web Site Upgrade: Wayne Bell explained that the web site has some fundamental problems in terms of ease of use. Taylor McLean, the web master, is very much in line with this thinking about re-engineering the web site, perhaps getting a consultant or a firm to help. This would enable the MOS web site to have a change of look and become easier to maintain. That's not to put down the old one and all the work that went into it, but most groups redesign their web sites about every 5 years. Wayne Bell and Communications Coordinator Janet Millenson, on behalf of the Executive Council, plan to meet with Taylor and come back to the Board with constructive suggestions.

World Series of Birding: There is no WSB chair at present. Wayne Bell will be talking with Bill Hubick about the possibility of forming a team. In recent years there has been a problem with fundraising and paper work. It was suggested that possibly a WSB chair should handle these issues while a team captain should deal with forming the team and organizing it for the World Series of Birding participation.

Yellowthroat: Lydia Schindler urges committee chairs to consider writing articles about the work of their committees for the *Yellowthroat*. They could report their achievements, plans, and the help they need from the membership.

Records: Phil Davis reported on several matters. A batch of decisions is ready to be reported in the next *Yellowthroat*. Phil said for the last couple of years they have had an excellent committee that has been moving expeditiously to reduce the backlog of reports and keep up with new submissions. The committee is now getting ready to work on the "problem species" in its backlog. Since Phil took over as Records Secretary, he has made an effort to capture all the committee data in a database. He has been working towards consolidating all of the committee's efforts into some kind of publication. The committee plans to

BOARD MINUTES (continued from page 5)

use the book, *Rare Birds of California*, as a model of how they will present their data.

Youth Programs: George Radcliffe is trying something a little different. He has put together a backpack for a young birder in each Chapter. Each backpack (which he got during Wal-Mart's back-to-school sale) contains a pair of Eagle Optics Triumph binoculars (provided by Eagle Optics at a 30% discount) and autographed copies of Bill Thompson's youth birding guide (also provided at a discount) plus some miscellaneous books and other things; the whole package cost about \$55. Each Chapter will decide how it will award the backpack. The backpacks probably should be restricted to upper-level elementary school age or high school age, too young to drive. Chapters can contact John Malcolm for a youth certificate and patch to go with the backpack. George would like chapters to let him know who gets each one; there is also a questionnaire for the recipient to fill out. This information will enable YMOS to contact kids around the state and this in turn could result in kid-to-kid networking. If one kid per chapter can be identified each year, George can start building a statewide network to allow kids to send and exchange information. The only cost to the chapters is that George asks them to give the youngster a chapter membership for one year. George would appreciate members donating their old field guides to be used for this program. If the program proves successful this year, he plans for it to be an ongoing program with chapters receiving a new backpack each year.

OLD BUSINESS

George DuBois's Rain Forest Challenge: Don't forget George DuBois's new challenge. If MOS comes up with \$1,500 for rain forests, George will match it. Please get your donations in to Emmalyn Holdridge by December 15. It was suggested that chapters add the request as a check-off on their membership renewal forms.

Alternative Energy: Wayne Bell reported that MOS is putting together a committee to formulate a policy on



White-winged Crossbill at Centennial Park in Howard County photographed by Jeff Culler February 7, 2009.

alternative energy. Wayne is looking for two more members to help develop a policy document.

Financial Investment Strategy: After the issue of consolidating investment accounts was raised at the last Board meeting, the Executive Council discussed how to proceed. The matter will be studied by the Executive Council, taking into account various issues that came up with our auditor, Martha Waugh's stepping down as Investment Chair, and the role of the committee in implementing the policy. The Council will then come back to the Board and go over everything, giving as much background as possible and making sure that the Board's questions are answered. The Council will then make a recommendation to the Board.

Travel Program: Marcia Balestri is kicking off the MOS travel program with Tropical Birding on a trip to Mexico January 10-23, 2009. In April there will be a trip to Texas. To obtain information about these trips (costs, itinerary, etc.), e-mail Marcia at mebalestri@comcast.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ABA Membership: Mike Bowen, dhmbowen@yahoo.com (from the Montgomery Bird Club), has recently become an American Birding Association board member, and he

asked to say a few words about the organization. The ABA, based in Colorado Springs, is 40 years old. Mike has forms needed to join and will include a \$20 discount coupon. So for \$25 you can join ABA for one year and receive six copies of their magazine and also their newsletter. For those not already members, this is a good opportunity to join. The \$20 coupon has to be received by ABA on or before December 31, 2008. Contact Mike for information.

Marshyhope Land: Wayne Bell had sent out information from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy concerning the possible purchase of 392 acres of land on Marshyhope River. MOS did send a letter of support and this very prime piece of real estate has been bought. The Conservancy was able to put it into easement where it will be monitored in part by the nearby Henson Scout Reservation.

Bird Counts: Wayne reminded us that the dates for fall bird counts are Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21. Don't forget Christmas Counts; the dates are December 14 – January 5.

President Wayne Bell adjourned the meeting at 12:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
—Janet Shields, Secretary



Birds of Note—by Les Roslund

- Hummingbirds in winter? Hard to believe! Yet some seem to come around every year. This year two have been reported in our region. In the Scientists Cliffs community of Calvert County, Sue Hamilton has been hosting a RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD since November. This bird was still coming to her feeder as of Jan 20 despite some very cold days and nights. An even more celebrated visitor, an ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, showed up in late October at the home of Iris Ivanosich of Prince Frederick, also in Calvert County. The presence of the bird was reported to George Jett on Dec 22 and he took quick action to get it photographed, netted, banded and measured. (See article on page 10.) The bird was a hatch-year female, extremely hard to identify, but the measurements placed it as an ALLEN'S—the first ever of that species to be reported in Maryland. This bird kept coming to the Ivanosich feeder through the morning of Dec 29, and the gracious hospitality of the hosts allowed joyous viewing by numerous local birders.
- Great numbers of ducks winter along the Cambridge waterfront each year, so birders have come to expect some of the more unusual species. This season the expectations have been met and exceeded by the presence of a male TUFTED DUCK, a male EURASIAN WIGEON, and at least one female BARROW'S GOLDENEYE. A few lucky birders managed to score all three on a single visit. The TUFTED DUCK was first reported by Harvey Handly of Virginia on Dec 25. Local birders started watching for it, and the first to succeed was Levin Willey of Dorchester County; Levin relocated this duck on Jan 4 and the parade of visitors began. The TUFTED DUCK was still being seen in early February. While birders were seeking the TUFTED DUCK, reports started floating around regarding a "possible" BARROW'S GOLDENEYE. First mention of this bird was by Barry Marts and Beverly McDonald of Martinsburg, WV, on Jan 7. On Jan 10, Mikey Lutmerding spotted the "possible" and Jim Stasz confirmed the identity when the bird flushed and flew overhead. This was a female, and her skittishness gave the photographers a bit of a challenge, but excellent photos eventually became available. This bird also continued into February. George Jett was the first to sight the EURASIAN WIGEON in the area, on Dec 31. This duck, too, was still around in February.
- Three quite special grebe sightings were recently reported. The first was a WESTERN or CLARK'S GREBE seen from Point Lookout Park by Robert Ostrowski of Bowie, MD on Dec 27. Unfortunately, the bird remained too distant for a more precise identification, and no later



Female Barrow's Goldeneye on the Choptank River at Cambridge, Maryland, photographed by Bill Hubick January 10, 2009.

sightings were reported. The second sighting was of an adult RED-NECKED GREBE in basic plumage seen Jan 2 on the Patuxent River underneath the Rte 4 Bridge not far from the Solomons boat ramp, Calvert County. This bird was seen by Jonathan Alderfer and reported to Sherman Suter of Port Republic, who promulgated the information about the sighting; the bird was not relocated. And finally, an EARED GREBE was found by Clive Harris on Isle of Wight Bay at 33rd St in Ocean City, Worcester Co. This bird was found on Jan 9, was relocated repeatedly, and was in the same general location as an EARED GREBE that was reported last winter.

- Numerous other sightings have surprised and delighted local birders this winter. On Dec 22 an OVENBIRD was found and photographed on a sidewalk of the Johns Hopkins hospital campus in downtown Baltimore; Vanessa Girton of Anne Arundel County was the lucky birder who noticed and reported this out-of-season warbler. On Nov 25 a SANDHILL CRANE was seen passing the Cromwell Valley Park Hawk Watch in Baltimore County by Jim Meyers of Parkdale, MD. At the same site, Jim Meyers also reported a passing SWAINSON'S HAWK on Nov 23. And finally, our region has been chosen as a wintering site for great numbers of PINE SISKINS, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, and even a few RED CROSSBILLS. Top count for WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS at a single location was 26, reported by Keith Eric Costley in hemlock trees of Druid Ridge Cemetery, Baltimore County, on Jan 20.



ALLEGANY/GARRETT COUNTIES

The Allegany/Garrett Bird Club has been enjoying a great lineup of speakers, including three graduate students from Frostburg State University. A bat researcher from the Appalachian Laboratory (UMCES) spoke in January on conservation issues affecting bats in Western Maryland. There is a man-made tunnel in Green Ridge State Forest that houses a one of the largest populations of small-footed bats in the region; one of our members voiced the concern that the tunnel is slated to become part of the rail trail, and the effect that may have on the bats is unknown. We had a wonderful banquet in November where Greg Kearns spoke "Of Rice and Rails," describing his work with Sora at the Patuxent River Park. We learned that the Canada Geese have been eating the wild rice and ruining the rail's habitat, but Greg's restoration efforts at the park have paid off.

—J.B. Churchill

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

The Sinaloan Wren's first-ever-in-the-US visit to Patagonia, AZ had stretched out from August through December. Normally I would never risk a whole airfare on a bird that might disappear after only a day or so, but this little guy looked like he was settling in for a while. Southwest Air was offering a sale price and the Arizona Field Ornithologists' web site provided gorgeous photos and recordings. What more could a guy

ask for? Besides, there was that yellow-goggled Northern Jacana in Casa Grande as an added enticement. The wren was active and vocalizing its ratchety call half an hour before sunrise and it provided glimpses measured in tenths of a second when the dim light arrived. But, my, how satisfying. The jacana was gleaning the grass by a golf course pond which was 300 yards away. . . behind that coyote. Not a fearsome beast, this old, run-down, lame, and blind character made Wiley Coyote look like an Olympic Athlete. A few loud noises and the way was clear to where the jacana was posing like Paris Hilton.

—Leo Weigant

It was by sheer luck and with some quick planning that I was able to go to Sierra Vista, AZ for four days of birding in January. I hit the high spots, going to San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, the Huachuca Mountains, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, Lake Patagonia, Whitewater Draw, the Environmental Operations Park of Sierra Vista, and Ramsey Canyon, and I added seven life birds to my list: Green-tailed Towhee, Lesser Goldfinch, Gila Woodpecker, Inca Dove, Painted Redstart, Anna's Hummingbird, and Bridled Titmouse. I had the pleasure of being guided by Jennie Tate, the daughter of AABC members Pat and Juanita Tate.

Jennie, who is a volunteer at Ramsey Canyon, and I hiked to the scenic overlook at the end of the canyon while we identified birds along the way. Birding in Sierra Vista was sheer pleasure – so many areas of different habitats so close together. Sounds like another trip to me!

—Bobbi Reichwein

Sixteen members and friends of AABC conducted a bird count at the former Naval Academy Dairy Farm in Gambrills (AA County) on January 11, finding 48 species of birds, including Cackling Goose, Horned

Lark, and Northern Pintail. AA County recently signed a 30-year lease on the property with the Navy and is in the process of finalizing a master plan to allow public access to portions of the property. This count will serve as a baseline the county can use to monitor the impact of planned habitat improvements on the farm. Participants were enthusiastic about repeating the count in other seasons to see what birds use the 857-acre farm for breeding and during migration.

—Janet Mackey

Progress at the Little Patuxent Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve in western AA Co: Wednesday, Nov 11, was a milestone in our pursuit of building an observation platform that extends beyond the canopy to allow full view of Oxbow Lake. A contract has been let, and at noon we met with representatives from the company that will produce the design. It has taken quite a few years to get here, but we should have the design by December. Then we will have a better idea of how much it will cost to build it and can start the fund-raising effort in earnest. Hopefully, birders will enjoy viewing the lake (and the rarities that stop by from time to time) from the observation platform when it is built. What is the saying? "Build it and they will come."

—Marcy Stutzman

HARFORD COUNTY

Samantha Spicer, a student at the Science and Mathematics Academy in Aberdeen, has undertaken a research project matching vegetation communities with bird populations in Harford Glen Educational Center and the Anita Leight Estuary Center. By mapping, counting, and identifying plant and bird species in 18 different transects, Samantha hopes to assess their relationships. Samantha must also produce a PowerPoint presentation, poster, and formal paper to present her findings to her peers and the public. Assisting with the project

is Ruth Bergstrom of the Harford Bird Club and Kriste Garman, park naturalist at Anita Leight. Many thanks to her teacher Yvonne Gabriel, and good luck to Samantha!

—Ruth Bergstrom

HOWARD COUNTY

The Howard Chapter will be participating in the county's annual *GreenFest*, to be held this year on Saturday, April 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Howard County Community College Galleria. This year's theme is "Energy and Water Conservation." Dozens of environmental organizations will be represented. Last year's *GreenFest* hosted well over 1,000 visitors. Everyone is welcome. Howard Community College is located at 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, Md.

—Kate Tufts

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Not all neotropical birds follow the rules and migrate out of our region. In southern MD the following birds were seen, and some photographed, during January 2009. These birds seem to be repeaters. Most notable is a Yellow-throated Warbler that has returned for the fourth year to Carol Ghebelian's Indian Head property. Bob Lukinic has Baltimore Orioles for the third year in a row, but they are not believed to be the same individuals since they are hatch-year birds. Another Baltimore Oriole has returned for the third year in La Plata; the Delaplan's oriole has matured into a lovely adult male. We generally get one or two Baltimore Orioles overwintering in Charles County; I can't remember a year when we did not have one. A good way to start your year list.

—George M. Jett

TALBOT COUNTY

George and Harry Armistead were on a birding tour on the southern Arabian Peninsula in the United Arab Emirates and Oman, January 10-24, 2009. This

was a Field Guides, Inc., trip co-led by Australian Phil Gregory and me. This was only the second time Harry has required a passport since 1962. However, he was glad to return to the marshes of Dorchester County. Anyone interested in Arabia should be inspired, to say the least, by reading Wilfred Thesiger's "Arabian Sands." Thesiger's explorations, done with Bedu with whom he lived on their own terms, were unbelievable exploits into the most remote and often dangerous parts of the country. Less well known is that he was something of an ornithologist and wrote on Arabian birds in the British journal, "The Ibis."

—George Armistead

TRI-COUNTY SURVEY

Dr. Ronald Gutberlet of Salisbury University conducted an Assateague Bird Survey this fall with several of his students. The group counted all birds seen at Bayside and Bayside Campground during a two-hour

period from approximately 7:20 to 9:20 one day per week from September through mid-December. Six student volunteers participated at various times. Along the way, several SU faculty joined, along with Doug Ruby and Mike Walsh. A total of 114 species were recorded. Perhaps most enjoyable was directly experiencing the transitions from warblers to waterfowl to blackbirds and finches as well as the large flights—the influx of Myrtle Warblers, the sudden appearance of 800 Surf Scoters on the bay in October, large southbound V's of Double-crested Cormorants, and the smaller groups of migrating loons and ducks. It was great to share this little slice of Maryland birdlife with a few interested students. All counts were entered into eBird. Ron hopes that these observations will add a little more to the records already established by Sam Dyke, Mark Hoffman, and Jim Stasz. He's already looking forward to what next year will bring.

—Carol Broderick



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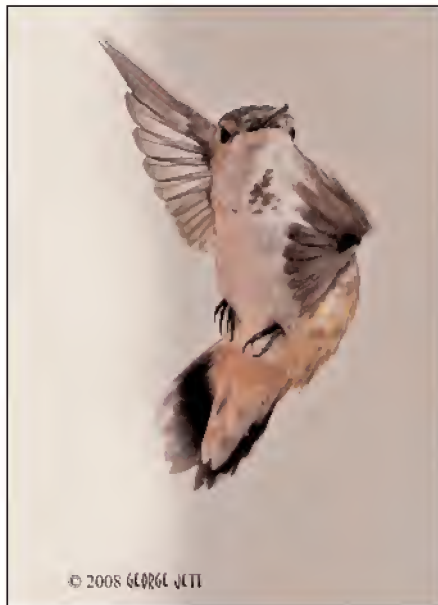
Baltimore Oriole photographed by George Jett in Charles County on January 14, 2009.

Out-of-Season, Out-of-Range Hummingbirds

I have been long been preaching “Leave out your hummingbird feeders from fall until January 1.” Not only is this is the time of year that out-of-season, out-of-range hummingbirds show up in our region, feeders provides an extra boost of food for migrants on the way south.

This was not a good year for numbers of out-of-season, out-of-range hummingbirds, but it was a great year for species variety. Within about a 20-mile stretch in Calvert County, along the western side of the Chesapeake Bay, we may have documented the fourth state record of a Calliope Hummingbird (North Beach), a hatch-year female Rufous (Port Republic), and a first state record hatch-year female Allen’s (Prince Frederick) (pending review by the MD/DC Records Committee).

Rufous and Allen’s are very hard to separate in the field; you need detailed measurements of birds in hand, especially when you are determining the first state record. Fortunately, two hummingbird banders, David Holmes and Bruce Peterjohn, were already in Calvert County banding the hatch-year female Rufous Hummingbird at Sue Hamilton’s house in Port Republic. When I located and photographed the Prince Frederick bird on December 23, I called them.



Allen's Hummingbird photographed by George Jett in Prince Frederick on December 23, 2008.

You can imagine my reaction when David told me the bird was an Allen’s. My jaw dropped. This bird had been seen by the property owner since late October. I hoped it would stay around until Gwen and I returned to town on December 29. Unfortunately the bird was last seen at about 9 AM on Dec. 29, and Gwen and I didn’t get there until around 3 PM. However, at least 50 birders got to see Angel, the name the owner gave the Allen’s hummingbird, before she left for hopefully warmer parts.

Allen’s is a western hummingbird that nests from northern California to central Mexico, but some birds do migrate east on very rare occasions. We were fortunate that this young hatch-year female choose to stop in southern Maryland to visit. Happy trails, girl.

Much of the information I learn about out-of-season, out-of-range hummingbirds is via word of mouth, so if you know of a hummingbird still hanging around, please let me know. Also make a note that starting in late October of this year, if you get hummingbirds, please contact me. The reported Calliope showed up in late October as did the Allen’s. Were it not for a call from the owner to Lee Duer of the Waldorf Wildbird Center and Lee calling me, we would have never been able to document the first Allen’s record for MD. Thanks, Lee.

By this sharing of information and others leaving out hummingbird feeders in late fall, we have also documented the first state record of Anna’s Hummingbird. Millie Kriemelmeyer had an Anna’s show up in November of 2004 because she left out her feeder. Unlike the Rufous/Allen’s species, Anna’s can be determined in the field with good views or images.

—George M. Jett

The Conservation Connection

by Kurt Schwarz



Hurricane Ike slammed the Gulf Coast in September. The sanctuaries owned by the Houston Audubon Society, which are often the first stop for exhausted migrants crossing the Gulf, were devastated. Most of the vegetation in the 2,415 acres owned

by Houston Audubon was killed, and it has not regenerated because the subsequent drought allowed salt to stay in the soil. Large amounts of debris were left behind as well. Migrants could meet with a big surprise when the touch down this spring.

Houston Audubon has an immediate need for \$40,000 to pay for replanting, debris removal, and fence replacement. Donations should be

made out to Houston Audubon Society, with notation in the memo section reading “Hurricane Ike Relief.” Send checks to: Houston Audubon Society, 440 Wilchester Dr., Houston, TX 77079.

—Kurt Schwarz
Chair, Conservation Committee

In Memoriam: Barbara Ross

On December 22, 2008, our mentor and very good friend, Barbara Ross, passed away at Roland Park Place in Baltimore. Barbara was born July 20, 1928 to Dr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Mink of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. She had been a resident of Baltimore since 1964 and is survived by her husband, Dr. Alan Ross and three children and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She and Alan have been members of MOS and the Baltimore Bird Club since 1968.

Barbara was an expert at banding birds and dedicated to her field of study. She started banding activities with Gladys Cole, Marion Glass, and Dotty Mendinhall in the mid-1970s. From there she ran a very successful banding station at Fort Howard Park with Jim Stasz, until vandalism led them to move the operation to St. Timothy's School (Irvine Natural Science Center) in 1979. She also banded at Cylburn Arboretum weekly during migration around this time.

It was during the 1980s when we met Barbara and apprenticed with her to learn the craft. At St. Tim's, she ran approximately 36 nets through a variety of habitats that were very productive—catching many Black-throated Blue Warblers, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and even a few Connecticut Warblers each fall. We very much enjoyed one another's company and our discussions were animated and varied.

Barbara focused on recognizable patterns in molt limits, particularly with breeding local birds, since they presented some of the greatest challenges and were relatively common. In the 1990s, encroaching development brought most of the banding activities at St. Timothy's to a halt, and she began to band at the coastal mitigation site at Fort McHenry with Jim Peters with help from many others. There she banded over 2,000 birds of 127 species.

She also travelled abroad to band birds when there were opportunities to do so. She travelled with Chan Robbins and Barbara Dowell to Puerto Rico, and we travelled

together in 1991 to Belize to assist Chan and Barbara banding birds at Las Milpas, in pine plantations as well as broadleaf rainforest. Here insects as well as birds were very abundant (can't forget the army ants). We also took very enjoyable forays to the annual meetings of the Eastern Bird Banding Association meetings; Barbara was a councilor with EBBA for many years.

Over the years we learned a great deal from Barbara. She was extremely knowledgeable in ageing and sexing of birds, and she was always very forthcoming with her knowledge. She also was an advocate of getting younger people interested, as she thought it the best way to help preserve valued natural places and habitats. She was an environmentalist but also a realist who understood the pressures of our society on the environment.

Some of our best memories include our discussions on land use and habitat preservation. We would often discuss various hypotheses that could explain why bird numbers have changed through the years. She also seemed to take pleasure, from time to time, in rattling our cage when the opportunity presented itself—always in a rib-poking, good-natured way; we very much appreciated the banter. Up until last year she would sporadically visit our banding station at Eden Mill and seemed to enjoy the time and the park itself.

Barbara was a member of the Homeland Garden Club for 20-plus years, winning ribbons for her displays of azaleas, daffodils, and hostas. She regularly attended the Baltimore Symphony, opera, and theater. She will be greatly missed.

—Mark S. Johnson and Sharon Schwemmer

Thanks to Chan Robbins, Barbara Dowell, Dixie Mullineaux, Joy Wheeler, Catherine Bishop, and Jim Peters in providing some of the specific information for this remembrance.

YMOS Spring Celebration Birdathon • March 21-22 2009

Junior Birders in the MOS Youth Programs (YMOS) have organized an Eastern Shore Birdathon to celebrate the first days of spring and to raise money for our MOS middle and high school teams' participation in the World Series of Birding in May. The 2-day quest lasts from sunrise March 21 to sunset March 22. Our birding is restricted to Maryland's Eastern Shore, from the Atlantic Coast to the Chesapeake Bay, south of the C&D Canal.

We have constructed a 100-species "must-see" list, although we hope to see more species than that. But for every "must-see" miss, we are penalized 2 species from the total eligible for pledge support.

Please consider a per-species pledge of 10, 25, or 50 cents. As additional incentive for us to do our best, we ask that you double your per species pledge for every species seen over 100 (corrected for any "must-see" penalties). Funds will be used to match support from MOS and other sources for WSOB registration and lodging. Our parents and coaches are generously donating their time to help us win in 2009!

We need only your pledge before March 20, 2009. We will report a full species list shortly after the Birdathon and provide our supporters with directions for payment.

Please email your per-species pledge to George Radcliffe, YMOS Chair, at RadclifG@qacps.k12.md.us.

MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT AS OF JANUARY 20, 2009

BY PHIL DAVIS, MD/DCRC SECRETARY

The MD/DCRC has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 121-122.

MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New “state” birds added to the official lists are asterisked; this report adds Le Conte’s Sparrow for DC. Updated official species totals are 435 for MD and 330 for DC. “Western” (or “pink-billed”) Greater White-fronted Goose was accepted as the first of this subspecies group/form for Maryland.

More information on the MD/DCRC, including the “official lists” and the “review lists” for MD and DC, can be found on the committee’s web pages at <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcsrc/index.html>.

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED:

“Great White” Heron, *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2006-106]

Galena, Kent County
31-Aug-2006

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/1997-442]

Gibson Island, Anne Arundel County
24-Jun-1955 through mid Aug -1955

Ross’s Goose, *Chen rossii* [MD/2008-001]

Larriland Farm, Woodbine, Howard County
17-Dec-2007 through 19-Dec-2007

Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii* [MD/2004-045]

Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County
01-Mar-2004 through 02-Mar-2004

Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus* [MD/2007-082]

Piney Reservoir, Frostburg, Garrett County
20-Sep-2005

South Polar Skua, *Stercorarius maccormicki* [MD/2008-034]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County
09-May-1976

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2008-022]

Cap Stine Road, Frederick, Frederick County
14-Dec-2007 through 01-Jan-2008

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2001-027]

Scotland, Saint Mary’s County
26-Dec-1999 through 06-Jan-2000

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2000-005]

E.A. Vaughn WMA, Stockton, Worcester County
29-Dec-1999

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2000-026]

E.A. Vaughn WMA, Girdletree, Worcester County
09-Jan-2000 through 29-Apr-2000

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2000-060]

E.A. Vaughn WMA, Girdletree, Worcester County
11-Nov-2000 through 24-Mar-2001

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2001-005]

E.A. Vaughn WMA, Girdletree, Worcester County
08-Feb-2001 through 17-Feb-2001

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2004-034]

Chino Farms, Kingstown, Queen Anne’s County
19-Oct-2003

Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2008-045]

Greenbury Point, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
07-May-2008

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED–FORM:

“Western” White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons frontalis/gambel* [MD/2001-039]

Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County
13-Nov-2000 through 28-Nov-2000

MD RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis* [MD/2007-089]

Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester County
04-Aug-2007

Townsend’s Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi* [MD/2007-140]

Little Bennett Regional Park, Clarksburg, Montgomery County
01-Dec-2007

Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus* [MD/2007-104]

Westminster, Carroll County
20-Sep-2007

DC RECORDS ACCEPTED:

Leach’s Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* [DC/1998-010]

Potomac River
Aug-1842

Leach’s Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* [DC/1998-009]

Potomac River
Aug-1842

Leach’s Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* [DC/1998-007]

Potomac River
Aug-1842

*Le Conte’s Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [DC/1997-499]

Hains Point
21-Apr-1997

DC RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* [DC/2003-050]

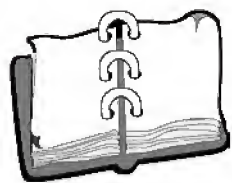
DC Village
21-Oct-1983

“Western” White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*

frontalis/gambel [DC/2004-201]
Anacostia River
26-Dec-2004

Swainson’s Warbler, *Limnethlypis swainsonii* [DC/2007-063]

Fletcher’s Boathouse
04-May-2007



MOS Calendar

March-April 2009

Sunday, March 1

H Harford. Loch Raven. Join veteran leader Dave Larkin to explore one of Baltimore's most scenic water-scapes. Just 6 miles north of downtown Towson, this reservoir and its surrounding forest are magnets for waterfowl and pine-loving songbirds. Meet 7:30 AM at the MD 152/MD 147 P&R. Contact Dave at 410-569-8319 for more details.

H Montgomery. Waterfowl Tour. Full day. Gas is a bit cheaper, so let's do an unofficial waterbird survey of the county. Meet 8 AM at Violette's Lock to start on the Potomac River. Leader can take 5 people; if someone else volunteers to drive, we'll take more! Reservations required. Maybe switch to landbirding if everything still frozen. Leader: Andy Martin at apmartin2@comcast.net, 301-294-4805 or 301-529-2066 (cell).

H Talbot. Ocean City and Environs. Seeking Harlequin Duck, eiders, gannet, Purple Sandpiper, Razorbill, (Western) Willet, and possibly Peregrine Falcon. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM or meet leader at Ocean City Inlet, south jetty parking lot 8 AM. Bring lunch. Soup, drinks, and warmth provided at leader's condo at noon. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, March 3

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. "Birds and Natural History in Queensland, Australia." *Pierre Henkart*, President of the Anne Arundel Bird Club, describes birds and birding "down under" in the tropical part of Australia. Directions: From I-695, take Exit 29A/Cromwell Bridge Rd and turn north (away from the city)

onto Cromwell Bridge Rd. At 1.4 miles, turn left at sign for "Sherwood Farm." Follow entrance road, then turn right after bridge and follow loop as it curves left, right, and left again to parking on the right. Walk further along the road through the stone arch to the Sherwood House entrance on the left. Refreshments will be in a room on your left, library and lecture room on your right. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. Info: Pete Webb, pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, March 4

H Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, fog, etc.). Directions: From I-695 southwest of the city, take exit 11/I-95 north towards the city. Get off at exit 55/Hanover St. Turn right (east) on McComas St, left (north) on Key Hwy. Take first left onto Lawrence St and turn left onto Fort Ave and continue through gateway into the park. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "The eBird Online Checklist Program" by *Bob Ringler*. Find out how to use eBird to log your bird sightings and share them with others, and how to find what birds have been seen and where. 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Bill Ellis, 443-520-8809.

Thursday, March 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Bob Schaeffer* will show photos and talk about his trips to ME and Canada, including

Bonaventure Is. and Nunavet, and a near-death experience at the hands of a Black Guillemot. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

H Patuxent. Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park. The Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS), along with members of the Patuxent Bird Club, will host mid-week bird walks from approximately 4 to 5:30 PM every 1st and 3rd Thur at the newly-dedicated Luther Goldman Birding Trail. Meet 4 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, March 6

DINNER MEETING. **Harford.** *Kevin Fleming* presents "Wild Delaware." 6:20 PM Dinner; 7 PM Program at Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd, Churchville. Contact Russ Kovach at 443-386-4787 or Russell.Kovach@gmail.com for more info.

Saturday, March 7

H Baltimore. Middle Creek WMA. All-day trip (bring lunch) to visit this major gathering place north of Lancaster, PA for Snow Geese and other waterfowl. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds at the Visitor Center. Note: Trip may go elsewhere if Middle Creek is frozen over. Meet 8 AM at Timonium P&R on Greenspring Dr/Deereco Rd off Timonium Rd just east of I-83. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

H Frederick. Timberdoodles at Audrey Carroll. David Smith will lead us on a search for American Woodcocks. Bring a flashlight. For info and meeting time call David at 410-549-7082.

H Indicates Field Trip

(MOS Calendar continues on page 14)

MOS Calendar (continued from page 13)

H Montgomery. Jug Bay, Prince George's County. Half day. Joint trip with ANS. Possible Rusty Blackbirds, migrating Wilson's Snipe, and courtship display of Osprey. Meet 8 AM. Call leader for details and driving instructions. Check ANS *News* for more info. Reservations required. Leader: John Bjerke, 240-401-1643.

H Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

MOS BOARD MEETING. Host: Howard Co. 10 AM at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Contact Janet Shields at janetbill@prodigy.net for more info.

H Tri-County. Nanticoke River and Other Western Wicomico Co Areas. Bring snacks and drinks. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leader Ron Gutberlet, 410-334-2655, for more details.

Sunday, March 8

H Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for Woodcocks and Breakfast. Meet 4:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Kathie Lambert, 410-867-4056.

H Baltimore. Loch Raven. Meet 8:30 AM. Directions: From I-695, take exit 27 Dulany Valley Rd north, go several miles, cross large bridge over reservoir, and immediately bear right. Continue to first left, Stone Hill Rd. Go about 100 yards, turn around, and then park on your right. All cars need to park on the same side of the road. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

H Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands,

fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl and lingering migrants likely. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Wye Island for late waterfowl. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet at Wye Island Bridge at 7:30 AM.

Monday, March 9

H Baltimore. Poplar Island. Poplar I., an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller, is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman I. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R or meet 9 AM at Tilghman I. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Bring snacks if desired. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Reservations required. Limit 24. Leader: Robin Armetta. Coordinator: Kevin Graff, whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, March 10

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Marie Brady*, a graduate student at Frostburg State, will present "Habitat Selection and Reproductive Success of Grassland Birds in Western Maryland." 7 PM at Allegany Co Main Library, 31 Washington St, Cumberland (across the street from the Board of Ed. Bldg.), 301-777-1200.

H Harford. Woodcock Trip. Meet 7 PM at the Churchville Rec Center on Glenville Rd in Churchville. Call Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 for more info. Inclement weather date Mar 12.

MEETING. **Kent.** "Pickering Creek" by *Mark Scallion*. 7:30 PM. Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

H Indicates Field Trip

MEETING. **Patuxent.** "Birding India and Nepal" with *Don Messersmith*. Dr. Messersmith is a popular speaker with world-wide birding experience. Come learn more about his birding adventures in India and Nepal. The formal program always begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For more info, call Maureen Blades at 301-262-5148.

Wednesday, March 11

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM on the lower level of Wesley United Methodist Church, Old Chestnut Rd and Justice Way. For info, contact Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

H Montgomery. Western Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. Joint MBC/ANS trip. Meet 5 PM at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." After checking out the river we will proceed to Hughes Hollow; highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight, and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required. Info: Jim Green, 301-208-2393.

Thursday, March 12

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "A Hummingbird Obsession: A Lifelong Quest for Hummingbirds" by *Nancy Newfield*. 8 PM at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Brazil Highlights" by *Greg Kearns*, Naturalist, Patuxent River Park. Learn about the natural history and astonishing biodiversity of this country. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec & Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Tom Miller, 410-795-7005.

MEETING. Talbot. Speakers: *Wayne Bell* and young birders. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or cooper-cw@goeaston.net.

Friday, March 13

ANNUAL SOCIAL. Montgomery. 6:30 PM at Woodend, Chevy Chase. For info, contact Steve Pretl at stevep@takomavillage.org.

Saturday, March 14

H Anne Arundel. Pickering Creek. Waterfowl and late winter migrants. Meet 7 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot for this all-day trip. Bring lunch. Leader: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674.

H Baltimore. Horsehead Wetlands. Winter waterfowl and passerines. Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd P&R off Balt Beltway (I-695) Exit 8 (not 8a), or 8:30 AM at the Horsehead Visitor Center lot. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

H Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. See Mar 4 listing for details. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Carroll. Woodcocks at Morgan Run. Meet 6:30 PM at the parking lot for the south area of Morgan Run NEA at the end of Ben Rose Ln, accessed near the intersection of Bartholow Rd and MD 97. We will try to hear the calls and wing twitter of, and possibly see, American Woodcocks doing their courtship displays. We will bird during dusk until after dark (sunset about 7:15 PM, twilight ends 7:40 PM). Contact Jerry Tarbell at 410-857-1109 for more info.

H Frederick. Black Hill RP. Mike Welch will lead us on a trip to the lake at Black Hill RP in Montgomery

Co, one of the best places for wintering waterfowl. Red-necked Grebes, Canvasbacks, and Redheads will be among the species we will be seeking. Meet at the Urbana P&R (south side) at 7:30 AM. For info, contact Mike at 301-874-5828.

H Howard. Waterfowl Search. Half day. Meet 8 AM at Broken Land Pkwy lot at Lake Elkhorn. Plan to visit the Columbia lakes, possible western ponds, and Triadelphia Res to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl. Easy walking. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available at certain locations. Leader: Stan Arnold, 410-768-0155.

H Kent. Pickering Creek. Early spring birding for waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and the occasional surprise. Bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Saturday-Sunday, March 14-15

H Harford. Barnegat Lighthouse and Brigantine NWR. Close views of Harlequin Duck and "Ipswich" Sparrow can be expected (bring your camera), along with Northern Gannet, Snow Bunting, eiders, Great Cormorant, and a plethora of other northern winter birds. Trip departs 7 AM Sat with expected return by 5 PM Sun. All are welcome but co-leaders Dave Ziolkowski and Les Eastman have a limited number of "without charge overnight spots" for club members on a first call (first commit) basis. Contact Dave at 443-299-8453 for more info.

Sunday, March 15

H Howard. Centennial Park. See Mar 8 listing. Leader: Joe Hanfman. Call Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361, for more info. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Talbot County WWTP. Migrant waterfowl, gulls, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Rusty Blackbirds, pipits, and maybe an oddity or two. Leader: Dave Palmer, 410-820-4707. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast host: Patty Allen.

Tuesday, March 17

H Montgomery. Western Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See Mar 11 listing.

Wednesday, March 18

H Montgomery. Western Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See Mar 11 listing.

Thursday, March 19

MEETING. Caroline. "Bluebirds" presented by *Danny Poet*. 7:30 PM at the Caroline Co Public Library, Denton. Info: Debby Bennett, firefly5845@hotmail.com.

H Patuxent. Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park. See Mar 5 listing. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

Saturday, March 21

H Cecil. Blackwater NWR and Beyond. Full day. A trip designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season. Meet 9 AM at refuge HQ. Bring breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Some easy walking on level ground. Leader: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

H Harford. Harford Waterfowl Tour. Randy Robertson will lead the search for our spring visitors, those web-footed, heavy-bodied birds. The Susquehanna Flats offer good looks at many migrating ducks and their near cousins. Meet 8 AM at Tydings Marina. Contact Randy at 410-273-9029 for more info.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 15)

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations are required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Sunday, March 22

H Howard. Centennial Park. See Mar 8 listing. Leader TBA. Call Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361, for more info. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Ferry Neck. Leader: Les Coble, 410-820-6165. Breakfast hosts: Priscilla and Paul Thut. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Monday, March 23

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING.

Tri-County. Sam Dyke and JoAnn Wilber will present "Iceland – Land of Contrasts." 6 PM at Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Education Rm, Salisbury.

Tuesday, March 24

MEETING. **Washington.** Annette Ipsan will present "Gardening for Birds." 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Wednesday, March 25

H Baltimore. Loudon Park Cemetery. Meet 9:30 AM at cemetery (3801 Frederick Ave). Directions: From I-695, take Exit 13/Rte 144 (Frederick Rd) east towards the city (away from Catonsville). Go about 2.5 miles. Just past Mount St. Joseph HS, turn right into the cemetery's main entrance. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

Saturday, March 28

H Baltimore. SeaWatch at Ocean City Inlet. Join us at 7:30 AM in the inlet parking lot for full-day watch for gannets galore and other seabirds headed north. Expect to see Brant, scoters, a variety of gulls, and (with a little luck) pelagic birds close to

shore. Stay over Fri night for early start on Sat. Dress warmly; cold wind can be brutal. Bring lawn chair, scope, and warm drinks. Leader will provide snacks. Bring lunch or buy it at nearby shops. Dinner/Tally Sat evening at local restaurant. Optional stayover Sat night for birding the Inlet Sun AM, then birding stops on way home. Contact leader for motel reservations and add'l info. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456, whitemarlin@yahoo.com.

H Harford. Susquehanna Gull Watch. Join Leaders Tom Congersky and Dennis Kirkwood to look for migrating gull species along the Susquehanna River. This is prime time for Little and Bonaparte's Gulls and other surprises. Meet at the Lapidum Boat Launch at Lapidum and Stafford Rds in Susquehanna SP. Call Dennis at 410-692-5905 for more info.

H Kent. Owl Prowl. Meet 7 PM at the Eastern Neck NWR Lodge. This field trip will hopefully bring us face to face with an owl or two after an introduction to local species and their calls. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Sunday, March 29

H Frederick. Hughes Hollow. Jim Green will lead us around Hughes Hollow and nearby sites in north-western Montgomery Co. This wetlands area is good for waterfowl, wintering song birds, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. For info, call Jim at 301-208-2393.

H Howard. Centennial Park. See Mar 8 listing. Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Duval Farm and environs for waterfowl, especially dabbling ducks. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002. Breakfast host: Margie

Steffens. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Tuesday, March 31

H Washington. Dine in Clear Spring and then on to Blairs Valley to search for woodcocks and owls. Bring a flashlight. Contact Dave Weesner at 717-498-0347 for details and to register for this outing.

Wednesday, April 1

H Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. See Mar 4 listing for details. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Rare Birds of Maryland" by Mark Hoffman. See excellent photos of the rare birds and birds recently added to the Maryland list. 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Bill Ellis, 443-520-8809.

Thursday, April 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** Marcia Balestri will let us travel vicariously through Cuba, with photos and tales of her trip to that normally inaccessible country. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

H Patuxent. Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park. See Mar 5 listing. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, April 3

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Paul Bithorn, field trip leader for the Tropical Audubon Society (TAS), Florida, will present "Birds of the Everglades and South Florida." 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

Saturday, April 4

H Allegany/Garrett. Garrett County Ponds. Meet at Parkside School in LaVale at 9 AM and pack a lunch for

H Indicates Field Trip

a picnic at New Germany SP. We typically visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Meadows Lake and Campground, and New Germany SP. Call leader, Roy Brown at 301-724-7769, for more info or to arrange for an alternate meeting spot (such as Finzel Swamp).

H Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitat that includes stream, woods, and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet 8 AM. Directions: From the Balt Beltway (I-695) take Exit 29A Cromwell Bridge Rd. Turn north (away from the city) onto Cromwell Bridge Rd. At 1.4 miles, turn left at the "Willow Grove Farm Entrance." Follow entrance road, then turn left after bridge and park in lot on left. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

H Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

Sunday, April 5

H Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. 2 hrs. First in a series of casual spring walks in Apr. Watch spring progress with a delightful variety of flowers, trees, and bushes along Cylburn's nature trails. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. No designated leader. Meet 8:30 AM at mansion's front porch, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Harford. Perryman. Explore this locally popular birding destination well known for its large fields and bayside access. The timing of this trip presents a great opportunity to find Wilson's Snipe, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, and a good mix of puddle ducks. Meet Dave Larkin at the Aberdeen

Wal-Mart parking lot, southeast corner at 7 AM. Call 410-569-8319 for more info.

H Howard. Rockburn Branch Park. Half day. Meet 8 AM in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park, looking for early migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. Leaders: Karen Darcy, 410-552-9342, and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

H Talbot. Urban Birding. New location: the wetlands, fields, and wood margins around the new Target shopping center and vicinity in search of migrant and resident land, marsh, and waterbirds. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Breakfast hosts: Myra and Bill Novak. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Tuesday, April 7

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of Spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Meet 8:30 AM at footbridge. Directions: From I-695, take Jones Falls Expy (I-83 south) to Northern Pkwy exit, and go left (east) to next light, Falls Rd. Go left (north) and stay in right lane, go past second light (Lake Ave), turn right (east) before south end of Falls Rd bridge (just north of Lake Ave), follow right-left-right turns to avoid Light Rail entrance and go 0.5 mile to intersection. Park and walk to footbridge. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. "Warblers of Maryland." *Linda Friedland and Mike Bowen* of the Montgomery Bird Club present a streamlined version of their popular identification workshop that debuted at the June 2006 MOS conference. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Doors open at the Sherwood House

at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. Info: Pete Webb, pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, April 8

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM on the lower level of Wesley United Methodist Church, Old Chestnut Rd and Justice Way. For more info, contact Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

Thursday, April 9

H Howard. Centennial Park. See Mar 8 listing. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361. Facilities available.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Puerto Rico, Jewel of the Caribbean," by *Terry Neumyer*. After retiring from science teaching, Terry has traveled extensively and now works and volunteers for many environmental organizations on the east coast. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Tom Miller, 410-795-7005.

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker: *Walter Ellison*: "Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project 2002-2006 Update. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

Saturday, April 11

H Cecil. Conowingo Wildflowers and Birds. Meet 7 AM at Fisherman's Park at Conowingo Dam. Bring scope if you have one. Wear sturdy footwear for walking trails that may be muddy. Easy walking on a level, well-graded trail. Leader, Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

H Frederick. Eastern Shore. Marcia Balestri will lead us around some Eastern Shore hotspots to look for early arriving warblers and lingering winter birds. Call Marcia at 301-473-5098 for info.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 17)

H Howard. University of MD Farm. Half day. Search the wetland and dry fields for migrants. Meet 7 AM. Expect difficult walking. Bring gear for multiple habitats. Knee boots a must and waterproof pants advisable. Limit: 12. No facilities. Call Bonnie Ott for meet location and to sign up, 410-461-3361.

Sunday, April 12

H Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. See Apr 5 listing. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Talbot. East of Rte 50 for Early Spring Migrants. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Tuesday, April 14

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *George Jett* will discuss his Photographic Big Year in MD. George raised money for conservation by photographing as many species as possible and getting pledge donations on a per-species basis. Some photos will naturally be better than others. Check out <http://www.georgejett.net/> for a preview. 7 PM at Allegany Co Main Library, 31 Washington St, Cumberland (across the street from the Board of Ed. Bldg), 301-777-1200.

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Apr 7 listing. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Kent.** "The Three Most Remote National Wildlife Refuges" by *Doug Forsell*. 7:30 PM. Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** "Wind Turbines in Delaware Bay: Bird-Friendly Alternative Energy Source" with *David Blazer* of Bluewater Wind Power. The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for

informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For more info, call Maureen Blades at 301-262-5148.

Wednesday, April 15

H Baltimore. Evening Walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled in rain, snow, sleet, fog, etc. Directions: From I-95, take Hanover Street exit 55, McComas St (last exit before tunnel eastbound, first after tunnel westbound), north on Key Hwy which turns west, first left Lawrence St, left onto Fort Ave, continue east to gate into Fort McHenry. From the JFX, I-83, south to St Paul St exit, south on St Paul, which becomes Light St, then left (east) onto Fort Avenue, continue to end as above. Park on Wallace St (left just before the gate). Meet 6 PM at the main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** 7:30 PM "Shorebird Identification." *John Bjerke* and *Cyndie Loeper* will present a streamlined version of their well-received workshop from the 2008 MOS Conference. They will help to refresh our memories and sharpen our skills as we enter the shorebird season. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info, contact Steve Pretl at stevept@takomavillage.org.

Thursday, April 16

MEETING. **Caroline.** *Phil Davis* will present "Birding the Bering Sea: Western Alaskan Specialities and Asian Vagrants." 7:30 PM at the Caroline Co Public Library, Denton. Info: Debby Bennett, firefly5845@hotmail.com.

H Patuxent. Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia Natural Area Park. See Mar 5 listing. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

Saturday, April 18

H Anne Arundel. Little Patuxent Oxbow Lake Preserve. Depart 7:30 AM from Parole P&R. Leader: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674.

H Baltimore. Smith Island. All-day trip to see the herons, egrets, and other birds on the island, plus gannets, sea ducks, and possible pelagic species up close during the boat rides to and from the island. Bring lunch, snacks, beverages, and cash; the General Store on the island will be open (cash only). Rental bicycles and golfcarts are available on the island. Carpool from Nursery P&R at 7 AM or meet at Point Lookout boat dock at 9 AM. Boat leaves at 9:30 AM, arrives at the island about 11 AM, and can pick up about 2:30 PM (negotiable) for the 1.5 hour ride back to Point Lookout. This trip requires reservations by Apr 9 and \$25-\$45 cash each person (to be paid at the boat dock before boarding). No credit cards or checks. Limit 30 (waiting list of 5). If we don't fill the trip by midnight Wed, the trip will be cancelled. Contact Pete Webb, pete_webb@juno.com or 410 486-1217, for reservations.

H Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. See Mar 4 listing for details. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Cecil. North East and Elkton Town Parks. Amble around two town parks that offer spectacular habitat for birds. Good walking conditions on mostly level ground. Meet 7 AM at North East Town Park, at the end of Walnut St in North East. Wear sturdy shoes or boots for walking. Bring scope if you have one. Trip leader: Richard Donham, donhamr@zoominternet.net.

H Harford. Eden Mill. Trip for School-Age Students. Join the Harford Bird Club leaders to experience birding for beginners. All adults

must be accompanied by a student. Bird banding demonstration will be followed by a walk. Meet 8:30 AM at the Eden Mill lower parking lot on Eden Mill Rd. Call Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 for further info.

H Howard. Photography Trip at Font Hill Park. 2-3 hrs. Meet 8 AM at park entrance on Font Hill Dr. Easy walking on paved paths and boardwalk. Slow pace to allow plenty of time for taking pictures of birds and other wildlife. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome. Possible photo subjects include migrant warblers, herons, springtime butterflies, dragonflies, and wildflowers. Limit 12; each person must bring a camera. No facilities. To sign up, contact June Tveekrem at June@SouthernSpreadwing.com or 410-715-3979.

H Howard. Beginner's Walk at Mt. Pleasant. 2 hrs. Meet 8 AM at shed. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Learn the basics of binocular and field guide use. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643. Facilities available.

H Kent. Beginner's Bird Walk. 2 hrs. Heron Point. Meet 9 AM in the main parking lot for a leisurely walk along the river looking for early spring migrants: swallows, warblers, vireos, sparrows. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@broadband.net.

H Montgomery. DE Coastal Areas. Joint ANS/MBC trip. Full day. Waterbirds, late waterfowl, early shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. Meet 8 AM at Bombay Hook NWR, DE, Visitor Center. Make reservations with and get directions from leader: John Bjerke, 240-401-1643.

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. Reservations not required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. Call Fred Shaffer, 410-721-1744, for add'l info.

H Patuxent. Southern PG County. This trip will cover a variety of habitats in search of migrants along the Patuxent River. Meet at the Bowie P&R at 7:30 AM or meet us at Mt. Calvert at 8:15 AM and carpool from there. Contact Fred Shaffer for add'l details and meeting location at 410-721-1744.

H Tri-County. Upper Pocomoke River Area. In search of warblers and vireos. Bring snacks and drinks. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leaders, Ellen Lawler and Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853, for more details.

Sunday, April 19

H Baltimore. Patapsco Valley SP/Granite Area. Join the search for early migrants along the Patapsco River and neighboring forest. Several species of warblers and both orioles possible. Boots recommended. Meet 7:30 AM. Directions: From I-695 take Liberty Rd (Exit 18/MD Rte 26) west for 2 miles to Old Court Rd (MD Rte 125). Turn left on Old Court Rd and drive 5.5 miles through Granite to the Patapsco River. Park on the lane in the cemetery just after the Job Corps signs. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6489 or oriolekec1@comcast.net.

H Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. See Apr 5 listing. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Howard. Schooley Mill Park. Half day. Meet 8 AM at upper lot near facilities. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails for migrants. Wetland area may hold some surprises. Excellent habitat for warbler, thrushes, vireos. Leader: Joe Hanfman, 410-772-8424. Facilities available.

H Montgomery. Hughes Hollow and Vicinity. Half day. With a variety of habitats, Hughes Hollow is always interesting in spring. Depending on recent sightings, we may also visit nearby areas. Meet 7 AM at the Hughes Hollow parking lot in the McKee-Beshers WMA. Reservations required. For more info, directions, and reservations contact the leader: Jim Nelson, 301-530-6574 or kingfishers2@verizon.net.

H Talbot. Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Sanctuary for early migrants. Leader: Vince De Sanctis, 410-886-2009. Breakfast hosts: Jean and Ralph Crump. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Tuesday, April 21

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Apr 7 listing. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

Wednesday, April 22

H Baltimore. Evening Walks at Fort McHenry. Cancelled in rain, snow, sleet, fog, etc. See Apr 15 for directions. 6 PM at the main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Howard. Bon Secours. 2 hrs. Meet 8 AM at visitor lot at the top left of the entrance road. Moderate to easy walking through the grounds of this mixed habitat adjoining Patapsco SP. Leader: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057. Facilities available.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 19)**Saturday, April 25**

H Anne Arundel. Pocomoke River Canoe Trip. Early spring migrants. Bring lunch. Leader: Larry Zoller, 410-987-9354.

H Baltimore. Huntley Meadows, VA. Bring picnic lunch for three-quarter day trip to northern VA woods and freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail, for resident wildlife and early spring migrants. American Bittern and Sora both possible. Three-hour level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd P&R. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or pete_webb@juno.com.

H Cecil. Spring at Fair Hill. Spring at Fair Hill means migrants: we'll be looking for early warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows. Meet 8 AM at the Covered Bridge parking lot at Fair Hill. Parking fee; honor system in use; bring small bills to pay fee (\$3 MD residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Wear shoes or boots suitable for walking. Leader: Meta Little, meta368@juno.com.

H Howard. Middle Patuxent EA. Half day. Meet 7:30 AM at Clegg Meadow entrance off South Wind Cir. Moderate to difficult walking through the wooded paths and along the river. The Clegg Meadow offers field edges and great view of the sky. This is fabulous area for migrants. Boots recommended; grass can be tall and paths may be muddy. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643. No facilities.

H Kent. Millington WMA. We will search the fields and woods for song-bird migrants: thrushes, vireos, warblers, and others. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

H Montgomery. Blue Mash. Half-day walk at this relatively new and surprisingly birdy site. Waterproof boots helpful. Meet 7:30 AM at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for reservations and directions. Limit: 8-10. Leader: Mark England, 240-252-4218 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

H Washington. Travel to nearby Catoctin Park for this half-day trip. We will be leaving from the Rte 66 P&R. Call Shirley Ford at 301-241-3020 for departure time.

Sunday, April 26

H Baltimore. Marriottsville Warblers. Resident warblers include Prothonotary and Worm-eating. Yellow-throated Warbler and Barred Owl also possible. Meet 8 AM. Directions: From I-695 Exit 18 (Liberty Rd), go west 4.9 miles to Marriottsville Rd. Turn left 4 miles past quarry and rifle range to unmarked, narrow road with mailboxes. Just before bridge, turn right, continue to small unpaved parking lot on left. Leader: Paul Noell, 410-243-2652 or myconut@verizon.net.

H Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Just about anything could show up in this large, urban park with varied habitats. Meet 8 AM. Directions: Take the Druid Hill Park exit from I-83, which puts you onto Druid Park Lake Dr. Turn right into the main park entrance on Swan Dr and park on road margins at the northwest corner of the lake. Leader: Bryce Butler, 410-728-0646 or capitano.bryce@verizon.net.

H Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. See Apr 5 listing. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

H Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk, Druid Hill Park Conservatory (Greenhouse). See migrating Chimney Swifts as they pour into the Conservatory chimney. Meet 7 PM

but come at 6:45 PM if the weather is cloudy or gray. Rain date Apr 28. Directions: The Conservatory is located at Auchentoroly Terr and Gwynns Falls Pkwy. From I-83 exit at 28th St, follow signs to "Druid Park Lake Dr" (go along edge of the park). Turn right at 5th traffic light, Gwynns Falls Pkwy. See the Conservatory on your right (an historic Victorian glass greenhouse). Co-leaders: Carol Schreter, 410-664-5151, and Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjisc@verizon.net.

H Carroll. Spring Migrants at McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot on the west side of Marriottsville Rd, on the north side of the railroad tracks, just south of the South Branch of the Patapsco River (at the Howard-Carroll Co line). Look and listen for spring migrants in transit and newly arrived breeding birds, including flycatchers, warblers, and finches. Contact Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031 for info.

H BIG DAY. Frederick. Help us find as many species as possible in Frederick Co in a single day. We will put together teams to try to cover the county. You can start at any time and finish at any time. Call Mike Welch at 301-874-5828 if you would like to participate.

H Harford. Winters Run Road. A quiet three-mile stroll along this primary Harford Co waterway boasts a low-traffic, tree-lined pathway with some farmland and meadow habitat attracting a variety of birds, with the promise of heron, kingfisher, and an abundance of springtime passerines. Join leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis at 7 AM at the Rte 24/I-95 P&R. Call Lynn at 410-569-0504 for more info.

H Indicates Field Trip

H Howard. Wildflowers at Daniels Area of Patapsco. Meet 1 PM at first parking lot on left at bottom of Daniels Rd (add'l parking farther on right). Look for spring wildflowers on a flat and sometimes muddy path. No facilities. Leaders: Bob and Jo Solem, 301-725-5037.

H Howard. Hawks at Fort Smallwood Park. Full day. We will meet at 9 AM near the Hollywood Video Store in the parking lot of the Lyndwood Shopping Center on Marshalee Dr and carpool from there. Though primarily a hawk watching trip, the park has the potential for a number of other kinds of birds. Bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, and a chair. There are portable toilets, but no drinking water. A 100-yard walk is all that is involved. Weinberg Park is nearby for those interested. There is a nominal admission charge. Leader: Ralph Geuder, 410-788-3764.

H Talbot. Pickering Creek. Leader: Kelsey Frey, 717-341-9564 or at Pickering Creek, 410-822-4903 x22. Breakfast hosts: Kelsey and colleagues. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Meet leader at site.

Monday, April 27

MEETING. **Tri-County.** Program TBA. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

Tuesday, April 28

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Apr 7 listing. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

H Baltimore. Rain Date for Chimney Swifts at Dusk. See Apr 26 listing.

MEETING. **Washington.** *George Jett* will present "A Snapshot of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas." 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Wednesday, April 29

H Baltimore. Evening Walks at Fort McHenry. (Cancelled in rain, snow, sleet, fog, etc.) See Apr 15 for directions. 6 PM at the main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

H Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more info and for specific directions. Reservations required. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Friday, May 1

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** *Bill Herald*, owner of the Wild Bird Center in W Annapolis, will present "Five Reasons Why Even Real Birders Can Enjoy Backyard Birds: Attracting, Feeding, and Caring for Wild Birds." 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

MEETING. **Harford.** Program TBA. 7 PM at the Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd, Churchville. Contact Russ Kovach at 443-386-4787 or Russell.Kovach@gmail.com for more info.

H Washington. Sideling Hill and Surrounding Area. For more info and to register for this popular trip, call Dave Weesner at 717-498-0347.

Saturday, May 2

H Baltimore. Halethorpe Ponds. Diverse habitat of this little-birded area includes the river, two freshwater ponds, floodplain woods, and a power line cut. We'll look for Warbling Vireo, both orioles, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, pheasant, and an assortment of warblers. Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd P&R. Leader: Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com.

H Baltimore. Soldiers Delight. Warblers, flycatchers, and tanagers are featured as spring migration heats up in this globally rare ecosystem. Meet 7:30 AM. From I-695 Beltway exit 18/Liberty Rd, go west 4 miles, bear right onto Deer Park Rd just before traffic light and water tower, go 2 miles to historical marker, overlook, and gravel lot on left. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6849 or oriolekec1@comcast.net.

H Frederick. C&O Canal Walk. We will travel from Point of Rocks to Lander to look for migrating warblers. Be sure to do your neck exercises beforehand. Meet at Baker Park at 6:30 AM. Call Kathy Calvert at 301-698-1298 for further info.

H BIG DAY. Howard. All-day listing extravaganza! Limit: 12. Plan to spend the day hiking around the county in search of as many species as possible. All types of footwear needed. Bring food and drinks. Brief lunch stop planned. Facilities in some spots. Call Bonnie Ott to sign up at 410-461-3361.

H Patuxent. North Tract Night Trip for Whip-poor-will (tentative). Contact Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152, for further details.

H Tri-County. Pickering Creek. This 400-acre sanctuary is a working farm with meadows, mature forests, and tidal and non-tidal wetlands. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leader, Carol Broderick, 410-742-8920, for more details.

Sunday, May 3

H Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. See Apr 5 listing. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

MOS Calendar (continued from page 21)

H Frederick. Fred Archibald May Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Contact Bob Schaefer at 301-831-5660 or rjs30@erols.com for further info.

H Howard. David Force Park. Birding for Beginners. Meet 8 AM in gravel lot off Turf Valley Rd across from the county club. Easy walking through the woodlands and along field edges. Learn basic techniques of binocular use. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. No facilities. Leader: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057.

H Montgomery. Little Bennett RP. Half day. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. Contact the leader for time and directions. Reservations required. Leader: Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894.

H Talbot. Pocomoke Swamp. Full day. We will bird the edge of Nassawango Creek Preserve in search of migrant and resident songbirds with focus on warblers. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Bring lunch, drinks, and insecticide. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM.

Tuesday, May 5

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. See Apr 7 listing. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evenings at Cromwell Valley. Program TBD. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Doors open at the Sherwood House at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:45 or 8 PM. Info: Pete Webb, pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, May 6

H Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scope can be useful. (Cancelled in rain, fog,

etc). See Mar 4 listing for directions. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

H Baltimore. Druid Ridge Cemetery. Meet 9:30 AM at 7900 Park Heights Ave in Pikesville. Possibility of both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and migrant warblers. Leader: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204.

H Baltimore. Evening Walks at Fort McHenry. (Cancelled in rain, snow, sleet, fog, etc.) See Apr 15 for directions. 6 PM at the main gate. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Carroll County Bird Club Final Exam—Testing Your Auditory Birding Skills." 7:30 PM at Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Info: Bill Ellis, 443-520-8809.

H Montgomery. Exploring Calvert County. Sue Hamilton will guide us to birding hotspots of Calvert Co. Meet 7 AM at the road leading to Flag Ponds. We'll travel to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and other spots, then stop for lunch on the beach. Reservations required. Limit: 10. For detailed directions and more info, contact Coordinators: Lydia Schindler, 301-977-5252, and Linda Friedland, 301-983-2136.

Thursday, May 7

MEETING. **Frederick.** "Mike Welch Bird Quiz—Can You Identify Birds from Photos and Sound Recordings?" Some easy, some not so easy. You will not be graded! 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

H Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, PG County. Half day. Peak migration time for songbirds, some marsh and waterbirds. Joint trip with ANS. Meet Greg Kearns, park naturalist, at 6:30 AM at park entrance. Drift-boat trip followed by hiking on trails and through marshes. Make reservations with Liz Jones at ANS, 301-652-9188, x30.

Friday, May 8

H Montgomery. Pennyfield Lock: Birding by Ear. The emphasis is on listening so tune up your ears for this half-day canal walk. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Meet 7 AM at the end of Pennyfield Lock Rd. Reservations required. For more info and reservations, call Leaders: Cyndie Loeper, 301-530-8226, and Ann Lucy, 301-229-8810.

Saturday, May 9

✿ **MAY COUNT. Allegany/Garrett.** To participate in Allegany Co, contact J.B. Churchill (compiler), jchurchi@atlanticbb.net, 301-689-8344 or 301-697-1223 (cell), to be assigned an area to count. There will be no tally. Send your results to J.B. To participate in Garrett Co, contact Fran Pope (compiler), fpope@gnetmail.net or 301-334-4908.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Anne Arundel.** Contact compiler, Dotty Mumford, at 410-849-8336, for more details.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Baltimore.** All-day count of birds in Balt City and Co. For area assignments, contact compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Calvert.** Compiler: TBD. Contact Mike Welch, manddwelch@comcast.net, for more info.

✿ **May Count. Caroline.** Compiler: Debby Bennett. Contact her at firefly5845@hotmail.com for more info.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Carroll.** All day. Individual parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas. Tally Rally will be hosted by Jerry and Laura Tarbell at their home. Contact Bill Ellis to coordinate count locations at 443-520-8809. RSVP to Jerry and Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109 if you will be attending the Tally. Please bring a cash donation or a food item.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Cecil.** Assist the Cecil Bird Club as we participate in the annual, continent-wide International Migratory Bird Day. Must contact compiler (to be named—check Cecil Bird Club web site at <http://www.udel.edu/cecilbirds> for update) ahead of time for assignment to an area and for reporting forms and instructions.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Charles.** Compiler: George Jett, gmjett@comcast.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Dorchester.** Compiler: Harry Amistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Frederick.** Join the crowd for our local countywide count. Contact Mike Welch at 301-874-5828 to assist.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Harford.** Compiler: Mark Johnson, mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Howard.** Call Bonnie Ott to sign up at 410-461-3361.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Kent.** An all-day effort to census all birds in Kent County. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact one of the leaders for details. Info: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Montgomery.** For more info contact Compiler, Andy Martin, 301-294-4805 (h), 301-529-2066 (m), or apmartin2@comcast.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Prince George's.** Contact Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 for info.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Queen Anne's.** Compiler: Glen Therres, gtherres@dnr.state.md.us.

✿ **MAY COUNT. St. Mary's.** Compiler: Bob Boxwell, bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Somerset.** Compiler: Charles Vaughn, essc@comcast.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Talbot.** Leader/Coordinator: Les Coble, 410-820-6165. In addition, Pickering Creek Audubon Center will have bird hikes, crafts, and talks celebrating birds in culture. 10 AM-2 PM. Contact 410-822-4903 x25 or go to www.pickeringcreek.org for details.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Washington.** Contact Dave Weesner, 717-498-0347, to help with the local effort.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Wicomico.** Everyone can participate. Contact Ellen Lawler for details and checklists at 410-546-9056.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Worcester.** Compiler: Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@adelphia.net.

26TH ANNUAL WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING. Proudly hosted by New Jersey Audubon, this event has changed the birding landscape and raised more than \$8 million for bird conservation. Every species found, every dollar raised preserves and protects critical bird habitat.

🏠 **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scope can be useful. (Automatically cancelled in rain, sleet, fog, etc). See Mar 4 listing for directions. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

🏠 **Montgomery.** Upper Watts Branch, Rockville. Half day. Migrant warblers, vireos, and thrushes, and assorted woodland residents, including possible Red-shouldered Hawks. Meet 7:30 AM at corner of Princeton Pl and Fordham St. Limit: 12. Reservations required. Leader: Paul O'Brien, 301-424-6491.

🏠 Indicates Field Trip

Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10

🏠 **Talbot.** Cape May for "Everything." Peak spring migration: warblers and other passerines, shore-birds, and waders. Leader: Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742.

Sunday, May 10

🏠 **Baltimore.** Patuxent North Tract (Research Refuge). Bring lunch for all-day trip to Anne Arundel Co site for Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, chat, and other Southern specialty birds. Prothonotary Warbler possible. Meet 8 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, I-695 Exit 8. Leader: Steve Sanford, 410-922-5103 or scartan@verizon.net.

🏠 **Baltimore.** Cylburn Nature Walk. See Apr 5 listing. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

🏠 **Frederick.** Audrey Carroll May Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Call Dave Smith at 410-549-7082 for further info.

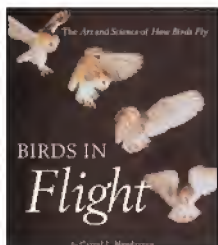
🏠 **Talbot.** Leader's Choice. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

Friday-Sunday, May 15-17

ANNUAL MOS CONFERENCE. Holiday Inn, Francis Scott Key Conference Center, Frederick. For more information, contact Janet Shields, janetbill@prodigy.net

BOOK REVIEW

Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly, By Carrol Henderson • *Voyageur Press*, 2008. 160 pages, 150 color photographs, 15 diagrams. (Hardcover \$25.)



At 10" tall and 9" wide, laced with full-page glossy photographs of airborne birds, a quick flip-through at your local book store might give you the impression that this is a coffee table book. The text is too detailed to singularly fit that definition, but the photographs are stunning enough that the book could easily pull double duty.

Photographers may find fault in the handful of Henderson's photos that appear grainy or noticeably retouched, and photographs depicting birds wearing jesses might raise a few hairs on the necks of purists. Even so, the photos nicely illuminate the spectacle of avian flight.

Half photo gallery, half travelog, Chapter 1 showcases the likes of the singular beauty of an iridescent hummingbird pollinating a flower and the majesty of a condor soaring above the Andes. The accompanying narrative only loosely relates to the title, so readers might initially find themselves scanning the text for reaffirmation of the book's purpose.

What the text of the first chapter lacks in clarity of purpose, the second makes up for in substantive detail. Birds are masters of the fluid air, able to remain aloft through manipulation of the balance between four forces – weight, lift, drag, and thrust. Henderson provides a solid introduction to avian aerodynamics by discussing how airfoils function and in relating flight performance, aspect ratio, and wing loading. The text is significantly aided throughout by beautifully rendered drawings from Steve Adams.

The third chapter is an exception, where a mere four pages of text are dedicated to "Feathers and Bones." The

chapter omits all mention of the intricate parts of feathers that zip-fit together to form uniform flight surfaces and neglects to note the preponderance of unique reinforcements in the avian skeleton that counter attendant stresses.

Henderson returns to more thorough treatment in Chapter 4, "Wings," as he outlines the feather groups that make up the avian airfoil and further highlights wing structure and lifestyle. If life is about balance, which in biology it is, then no account of the avian tail is complete without recognizing the often antithetical influences of sexual selection and aerodynamic demand. Such perspective is absent in the brief "Tails" chapter, as evidenced by the discussion of the aerodynamic value of extremely exaggerated tails in some hummingbirds and seabirds.

The final three chapters are refreshingly unconventional in scope and focus: taking flight, types of flight, and landing, respectively. More than anywhere else in the book, it is here that Henderson's dynamic photos are best matched to the text. A sequence of three photos depicting the torpedo-like landing of a Common Loon is one that's sure to stick with many readers, as are so many of the other photos from the author's bird-watching forays around the globe.

Overall, Henderson, who combines artistic talent with a breezy and engaging writing style, has penned a user-friendly account of avian flight that is both informative and simply delightful to look at. Those looking for a comprehensive introduction to the topic will find more success elsewhere, but many teachers, visual artists, and beginning to intermediate birders will find this book a worthy addition to their bookshelves.

—Dave Ziolkowski

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

LAST CALL

...for **Posters** for the May conference in Frederick County. If you would like to share the results of research on the natural history of Maryland bird life – banding activities, hawk watches, even small research projects – present your work in poster format during the Wine and Cheese Social on Saturday, May 16. For more information, contact Dave Ziolkowski at 301-497-5753 or dziolkowski@usgs.gov.

...for **photos** illustrating classic bird habitats for the Atlas, deadline March 30. For info, check the web site or contact Bill Ellis, billellis@ellislist.com or 410-549-1530.

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